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IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-6 were previously pending. Claims 1-6 are hereby amended as set forth in the **Complete Listing of Claims** section of this paper. The amendments merely delete references numbers, and no new matter is introduced. Following the amendments set forth herein, claims 1-6 are pending in this application.

COMPLETE LISTING OF CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) Device for sectioning a vertebral lamina, characterized in that it comprises a base [(4)] for positioning the device and protecting the medullar canal when sectioning the lamina, sectioning means [(1)] slide-mounted in the base [(4)] along a first axis [(A₁)] contained in the longitudinal plane of symmetry of the device, a first piston [(2)] slide-mounted in a sleeve [(10)] of the sectioning means [(1)] along a second axis contained in the longitudinal plane of symmetry of the device and secant to the first sliding axis [(A₁)] of the sectioning means, a second piston [(3)] made integral with the first piston [(2)] and slide-mounted in the base [(4)] along a third axis [(A₂)] contained in the longitudinal plane of symmetry of the device, the sectioning means [(1)] being provided with a cutting element [(13)] lying within the longitudinal plane of symmetry of the device, and oriented in opposite direction to the second piston [(3)] with respect to the sleeve [(10)], and the sliding of the second piston [(3)] along the third axis [(A₂)] causing sliding of the sectioning means [(1)] along the first axis [(A₁)] via the first piston [(2)].

2. (Currently Amended) Sectioning device according to claim 1, characterized in that the second piston [(3)] consists of a body [(31)] provided, at one of its ends, with a ring [(33)] into which the second piston [(2)] engages, the ring being held on the piston by a screwhead [(23)] and, at the other of its ends with a handle [(32)], said body [(31)] being slide-mounted in a hollow tube [(42)] of the base [(4)] of the device, and the handle being sized larger than the tube [(42)] diameter to act as abutment to counter the weight effect of the second piston sliding within the tube.

3. (Currently Amended) Sectioning device according to claim 2, characterized in that the sectioning means are slide-mounted on a bottom part [(410)] of the base [(4)], provided with a slide rail [(411)] for the cutting element [(13)], the bottom part

[[410]] connecting first portions [[412]] of two side faces of the base [[4]] arranged facing one another, the longitudinal axis of said first portions [[412]] being parallel to the first axis [[A₁]], second portions [[414]] of the base [[4]] side faces having their longitudinal axis parallel to the third axis [[A₂]].

4. (Currently Amended) Sectioning device according to claim 3, characterized in that the tube [[42]] of the base is formed on the second portions [[414]] of the side faces of the base [[4]].

5. (Currently Amended) Sectioning device according to claim 4, characterized in that the bottom part [[410]] tapers toward a direction opposite the base [[4]] tube [[42]] and the first portions [[412]] of the side faces are provided with a recess [[415]] enabling the bottom part [[410]] to be caused to slide between the lamina to be sectioned and the dura mater and acting as abutment for the device against the lamina of the said vertebra.

6. (Currently Amended) Sectioning device according to any one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the end of the cutting element [[13]] is bevelled to facilitate sectioning of the vertebral lamina.